CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. – 18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) A method of providing a service permitting a user to define a communication link suitable for use in a data processing system, said method comprising:

defining an internal model of a generic communication link, the internal model comprising a set of configurable link cells;

enabling the user to specify a first set of parameters associated with the communication link while preventing the user from accessing the internal model;

providing means for converting the first set of parameters to an internal set of parameters; and

providing means for using the internal parameters to configure the internal model of the communication link.

20. (previously presented) The method of providing a service of claim 19, wherein:

enabling the user to specify a first set of parameters includes enabling the user to specify a first operational parameter and a second operational parameter;

providing means for using the internal parameters to configure the internal model includes providing means for configuring the internal model to obtain an optimal value for the first operational parameter constrained by the second operational parameter.

21. (previously presented) The method of providing a service of claim 19, further comprising providing means for simulating a bit error rate of the communication link.

22. (previously presented) The method of providing a service of claim 21, further comprising providing means for estimating die size and power consumption of the communication link.